



October 3, 2011

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Health, Government of Canada
Brooke Claxton Building, Tunney's Pasture
Postal Locator: 0906C
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

Dear Minister Aglukkaq:

On September 14, 2011, the Board of Health for the Peterborough County-City Health Unit endorsed the report by Toronto Public Health on "Reducing Artificial Trans Fat in Toronto: Need for Action", approved by the Toronto Board of Health on July 26, 2011.

This report highlights the need to regulate the amount of artificial trans fat in the Canadian food supply without further delay, as recommended by the Trans Fat Task Force in 2006, so as to ensure that sectors that have yet to comply with the voluntary targets and new and imported foods meet the recommended levels. The report further requests that Health Canada ensure comprehensive, timely monitoring of trans fat in the Canadian food supply, with public reporting of results.

In 2009 the World Health Organization (WHO) published a scientific update on the health consequences of artificial trans fat which confirm that artificial trans fat adversely affect cardiovascular risk factors and increase the risk of coronary health disease events.

A considerable portion of products available in Canada still contain unacceptable levels, including many foods often consumed by children. There also is a disparity in exposure to trans fat and heart disease risk factors, which disproportionately affect people living on low income, since many "trans fat-free" products are more expensive.

This report highlights the need to increase the scope and pace of work, in regards to the recommendations of the Trans Fat Task Force. The Board of Health urges action by Health Canada to develop and implement national regulation that virtually eliminates trans fat from the food supply and implement the recommendations of the Trans Fat Task Force.

On behalf of the Peterborough County-City Board of Health and Peterborough County and City residents, we ask you to continue your work on moving this important issue forward.

Yours in health,

Original signed by

Andy Sharpe
Chair, Board of Health
for the Peterborough County-City Health Unit

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Encl.

cc: Ontario Boards of Health